

Ames Historical Society

AMES • IOWA

FOUNDED 1980 AS AMES HERITAGE ASSOCIATION

2007 WINTER.. ISSUE #4/4

The mission of the Ames Historical Society is to preserve local history and illuminate its stories.



The Sheldon-Munn opened on Main Street in 1916 and provided a much-needed first-class hotel for Ames visitors.

Ames Historical Society Board:

President Kathy Svec
Vice-President Peggy Baer
Secretary Amy Swenson
Treasurer Ken Cameron

Board Members:

Roger Coulson, Joanne Goldman, Dottie McGee, Nick Howell, Carol Phillips, Neal Tarman, Dennis Wendell

The Board meets the 2nd Monday of each month at City Hall at 6:30pm. Members welcome!

Administrator Alan Spohnheimer
Staff Sara Vouthilak, Dennis Wendell,

Ames Historical Society is an incorporated, 501c3 not-for-profit organization dedicated to promoting interest in state and local history through publications, programs, exhibitions and operation of an archive and historic site.

Headqtrs: 416 Douglas, Ames, IA 50010
Open Wed-Fri, 1-5pm
Mail: PO Box 821, Ames, IA 50010
Phone: 515-232- 2148
E-mail: ameshistorical@qwest.net
Website: www.ameshistoricalsociety.org

The newsletter is published four times a year for AHS members. Direct comments & questions to: Editor, PO Box 821, Ames, IA 50010 or e-mail above.

Hoggatt School is located on the grounds of Meeker School, near 18th and Burnett, Ames, IA. Open April 1 through October 31.

Ames Main Street Through Time:



1910 – corner of Main & Kellogg, looking NE; dirt street, horses



1918 – looking east on Main; Sheldon Munn (left); paving, cars, trolley



1952 – looking south, 300 block between Burnett & Kellogg



1952 – north side of 300 block between Burnett & Kellogg
(note – images are visible despite deteriorated negative)

NOTE THIS CORRECTION to the last newsletter - lectures are **Wednesdays**, not **Mondays!** The dates listed here are correct.

All lectures will be at Ames City Auditorium, 6th & Clark, Ames; \$2 donation is requested at the door

Wednesday, January 30, 2008 at 7pm
All the Smoke and Cinders You'll Ever Want: Ames & College Railway's "Dinkey"
 by Dennis Wendell

The "Dinkey" carried passengers, mail, freight and building materials between downtown Ames and Iowa Agricultural College for sixteen years, 1891-1907, during a period of rapid growth by both entities. Society Curator, Dennis Wendell, combines dozens of vintage images with anecdotes and facts about the original

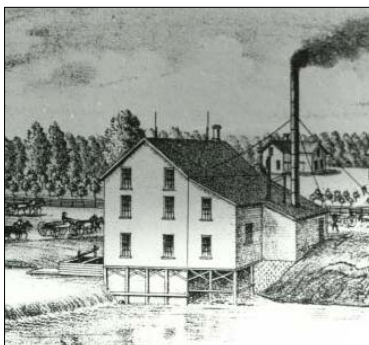


incorporators, route, terminals, rolling stock, passengers, freight, and advertising. A sole surviving artifact will also be shown.

An Iowa State University Sesquicentennial event.

Wednesday, February 27, 2008 at 7pm
Bears, Baptisms and Other Tales
 by Greg Vitale

Travel down the South Skunk River and back through time with Greg Vitale, a founding member of the Skunk River Paddlers. Along the way, you'll explore former Native American hunting grounds, meet early settlers, find remnants of old mills, talk of war, bears, baptisms and other stories that take us downstream and back to the present.



The Lecture Series is open to the public.
 Society members, friends, families and community residents are invited to enjoy these local tales that will open your eyes to Ames' colorful past.
 Co-sponsored with Skunk River Paddlers.

Wednesday, March 26, 2008 at 7pm
The "Heart Of Iowa" Leg of the 1908 New York To Paris Great Auto Race

by Bill Jepsen

Put on your driving gloves, strap on those goggles and slip on that linen duster. You are invited to experience the tale of one of the most adventurous treks ever undertaken.

The 1908 New York to Paris Great Race was a colossal international



undertaking and a huge news event exactly one hundred years ago. What's more, its route brought it through the "heart of Iowa" and Ames. Using period photographs, information about the race, vehicles, individuals involved and post race hoopla will be presented, concentrating on the happenings here in Central Iowa. Don't miss this wild ride!

Wednesday, April 30, 2008 at 7pm
Celebrating 150 Years of the Cyclone Experience

by Tanya Zanish-Belcher

Join Tanya Zanish-Belcher, Head of Special Collections & University Archives at the ISU Library, as she describes her Department's Sesquicentennial projects. From artifacts to oral history interviews, from blogs to websites, from diaries to snapshots, documenting the ISU Sesquicentennial is a full-time effort.

The 150th celebration also demonstrates the ongoing importance of keeping archives. The 15,000 linear ft. of papers, records, and 1,000,000 images in the Archives were used in numerous university projects and publications. She will also share some of the more unique objects from the collection.

An Iowa State University Sesquicentennial event.



Ames Historical Society News

Great Season at Hoggatt School!



Hoggatt School saw 538 visitors during the 2007 season, up from 271 in 2006! Congratulations go to curator Carol Phillips and all the Hoggatt School volunteers: Don Faas, Carole

Jensen, Roger Coulson, Janice Olson, Mary Frahm, Ellie Vandeventer, Maureen Friedrich, Rupert & Carmen Kenyon, Margaret Elbert, Jorgen Rasmussen, Joanne Goldman, James Graham and Kathy Svec.

In the last newsletter, Carol was seeking enough slates to provide hands-on use for up to 25 students. Our thanks go to Mark Chidister for donating slate, to Rollie Struss who will make slate frames and to Don Zytowski for a \$50 donation toward the project. Carol was able to find realistic slate pencils – the finishing touch! Rollie Struss, assisted by Roger Coulson, also created a compatible bench for the school, donating the materials.

World War II Exhibit

The airing on public television of Ken Burns' film, *The War*, prompted us to organize an exhibit of 1940s items.

In addition to our own artifacts, a call to our members brought in many, many unique and interesting items, including Paul Nelson's functional Norden

bombsight, right center. The exhibit was on display from Veteran's Day to Pearl Harbor Day.

We thank the following individuals for loaning us an amazing array of artifacts:

Don H. Clark, Jim Dresser, Dugan Ersland, Donald Faas, Dustin Golden, James Graham, Dan Konrady, Conrad Lawlor, Jerry Litzel, Don H. McNeil, Jim Menzel, Richard Mohler, Paul Nelson, Roy Picht, Neal Popelka, John C. Pyle, Norman Rudi, Alan Spohnheimer, Neal Tarman, Daryl Thomason, Dennis Wendell



Annual Meeting "Now & Then"

Please join us at 7pm, on **Monday, March 10** for the Annual Meeting! Society members will be delighted and entertained as present-day scenes are contrasted with the same scene in earlier times. Wonderful images from the Society's collection will be shared with stories and commentary – sure to bring back memories! An overview of a successful 2007 will follow. The Annual Meeting will be held at the Octagon Center for the Arts, 427 Douglas, Ames.

Worldly Goods Benefit Night:

The November 14 benefit night at Worldly Goods, 223 Main Street in Ames, brought \$212 to The Society! Many thanks are due to all who shopped and to the staff at the store for providing a pleasant evening!



Members of Den 8, Ames Troop 275 visited the Society and heard a short talk about Ames history, discussed respect for elders and worked on genealogical charts and scrapbooks of their Cub Scout experience.

Stock Transfers to Building Fund

In September, the Society provided a nostalgic pictorial tour of Ames in the 1950s for the 50th reunion of Ames High School Class of 1957. In October, Class of '57 classmate, Ellen Molleston Walvoord, was so inspired that she provided a \$10,000+ gift to the Building Fund in honor of the Max and Helen Molleston family. Her gift came in the form of a stock transfer, one of a number of ways individuals can provide support to organizations such as the Ames Historical Society.

At about the same time, Ames resident Joanne Craig provided a stock transfer of ~\$1400 to the Operations Endowment. We are so very grateful to Ellen and Joanne for their generosity!

For information about stock transfers and other donor possibilities, please call Suzy Shierholtz at the Story County Community Foundation, 515-232-5445 or e-mail StoryCounty@mchsi.com. The Society maintains its Building Fund and Endowment with SCCF.

A BANNER YEAR! 2007 ANNUAL REPORT

Facilities

The visibility provided by the Society's new location at 416 Douglas has resulted in a four-fold increase in the number of visitors and a huge increase in research questions! Due to our responsive and helpful staff, the Society is perceived as public-friendly and as a gathering place to share memories, photos and objects related to Ames history. Public hours are Wed. - Fri., 1-5pm with frequent appointments at other times. Be sure to read page 3 for news about Hoggatt School's successful season.

Presentations in 2007

The Society gave 35 programs and presentations to groups large and small; total attendance was 1200.

Website (our virtual museum)

www.AmesHistoricalSociety.org now has over 850 pages of content. It hosted 111,285 unique visitors from January 1 to December 31. A new monthly record of 16,071 visitors was set in November! Requests come to us via the website for more information on various topics and for permission to use images. Images were supplied to publishers in Wisconsin, Alabama, Australia and New Zealand.

New resources added in 2007 were more maps, stories about businesses and residents, *Your Stories* contributions, and the Index of Ames and Story County WWII veterans. Popular areas are *Help Identify*; the weekly *Tribune From the Archives* images and the Newsletter.

Publicity

From the Archives photos published in Ames Tribune reach 37,000 potential readers each Saturday.



Anita Beal has been merging two collections of multiple listing service sheets formerly used by Ames realtors. The Halloween goblin was no help at all during one of her work sessions in October!

Exhibits

Displays were placed in the North Grand Mall *Arts Are Here* display case and in a new case at Ames Public Library in a remodeled lounge. Two exhibits were on view at 416 Douglas. The first was mounted in conjunction with the Ames Public Library's "Big Read" project; the book was *My Antonia* by Willa Cather. A pioneer home interior was assembled using artifacts from the Bauge Log Home. The second exhibit on WWII featured loaned objects from local collectors. The most popular object was a functional Norden bombsight.

Collaborations

- The Society joined the Ames Chamber of Commerce and a ribbon cutting was sponsored.
- An exhibit with Ames Public Library's "Big Read".
- Sold tickets for Historic Old Town Home Tour and Historic South Campus Home Tour.

Main Street Cultural District events:

- Art Walk on June 1 featured artwork by our Board president, Kathy Svec.
- At the Fourth of July Parade, the Society supplied classic cars for the mayor and grand marshal. A marching unit promoted Hoggatt School.
- At Music Walk on September 20, our player piano entertained visitors.
- For the Holiday Loft Tour on November 18, AHS provided historic building information.

Collections

All categories of our collections were enhanced by wonderful donations in 2007: books, photos, maps, archival records and artifacts. Some donors gave items obtained on eBay, others parted with family heirlooms. A frequently stated reason for giving was that all residents of Ames could benefit from the donation. See page 6 for those who brought things our way in 2007.

2007 Collection Highlights

- Collection of **Armstrong marionettes and scripts** (1930s)
- Additions to the **Collegiate Mfg. Co.** (catalogs, photos, felt goods)
- 30 examples of **yard art made by Mary Young** for display at 1329 Grand Ave. from 1988-2007
- Gold-handled walking cane of **Mayor Thomas Thompson** (1918)
- Many volumes of **R.L. Polk's Ames city directory** (1950s-1990s)
- 6 filing cabinets of **Ames Kiwanis Club and Ames Jaycees** records
- **Chicago Cottage reed organ** (1893), Ruth Boast

- **Story & Clark player piano** (1918) with 50 rolls from Grant & Betty Quam; a real magnet for visitors who will sing and dance to the tunes
- **Hans Hansen collection** (1880s-1960s) early Ames builder who emigrated from Denmark; donated by his daughter, Ruth Boast, whose mother came from Cambridge
- **130 sets of architectural drawings by Barney Slater**, Ames architect
- **K.W. Brown's Civil War artifacts** once displayed in the family mansion at 1011 Kellogg (saber, bayonets, overcoat & cape, bullets, hand-made folding camp stool, real hardtack, diaries and documents)



From Gerbrach's scrapbook.

- **Joe Gerbrach scrapbook** – Joe owned and operated all movie theaters in Ames; scrapbook is 6" thick and contains 219 pages with 190 photos, 666 clippings, 232 letters and 87 memorabilia dating 1927-1962, all of which document Joe's innovative promotions and outreach; also large hand-tinted photo of Collegian taken at its opening in 1937
- Archival material formerly held in **Iowa Room** of Ames Public Library
- **Ames City Clerk's scrapbooks** (A.B. Maxwell, Gladys Meads, Ellen Landon)
- **Gladys Meads Ames centennial album** containing photos used in her book on Ames history, *At the Squaw and the Skunk*
- **Farwell Brown's research collection of files, scrapbooks, photos and color slides**
- Bound volumes of Ames weekly newspaper **The Milepost** (1930-1944)
- **Ames telephone directories** (1924, 1926-1942, 1944-1946)
- **Ames History** pamphlet file in 7 file drawers with list of subject headings

- **Ames Public Library accession records** (1904-1979)
- **Index to Ames and Story County WWII veterans** (26 3-ring binders containing about 2,600 names with accompanying newspaper clippings and some photos; card file of 7,800 3x5 cards listing summary service information; album of 155 veterans honored with Service Flags by families containing service records and photos; card file of 5x8 cards representing 152 names)

Storage space

About 100 linear feet of collections was added. On-site collection storage space is 480 sq. ft. Off-site collection storage space now totals 2,500 sq. ft. in 8 facilities.

Preservation & Equipment

- Procured 12 sections of enameled steel shelving for archival materials, reference collection, and incoming collections.
- Acquired 10 vertical filing cabinets and 3 microfilm cabinets from Ames Public Library for microfilm and other collections.
- Acquired a 5 x 8' table top from Ames Public Library to use as a processing table
- Completed last year of HRDP grant to preserve endangered Ames Tribune Photo Archive negatives and submitted final report
- High-end photo equipment was donated by Ames resident, Gary Moore.

Conservation

All eight Questers chapters in Ames provided funding for restoration of Ding Darling's original 1926 political cartoon, *Not the First Time the Call has Gone Unheeded*. Dennis Wendell funded restoration of a 1919 oil painting by local artist, Velma Wallace Rayness.



Long-time friends and former co-workers, Mary Atherly, L, and Eleanor Ostendorf, R, volunteer regularly in collections processing.

You Send Us Mail!

From: MaryEllen Bragonier Vogt, Truckee, CA
Sent: December 05, 2007
Subject: Photo identification

I've just spent the last couple of hours enjoying the "About Ames" section of your website. It's wonderful! Thanks to all who put this together! The links have been emailed to AHS grads and we've been walking down memory lane. I was born in Ames in 1945 and left for college after graduating from Ames High in 1963. Moore's Dairy, Welch [Jr. H.S.], Ames High, Louise Crawford, Archie's Shoe Repair, Carr's Pool and Carr Hardware are all very happy memories. It was fun to view photos of places that no longer exist. My photo as a kindergartner is the second one on page 5 on the Louise Crawford School site. I'm standing (in plaid dress and pigtails) next to a doll in a high chair pretending to feed the "baby". Since my brothers are both identified, Robert and Jim Bragonier, I thought I'd better get my name in there, too - MaryEllen Bragonier.

From: Steven D. Lekwa, Ames
Sent: October 18, 2007
Subject: Comment on newsletter #3/4

I enjoyed reading the recent newsletter, especially the article about our old mills and the neat artifact that was found from Hannum's. The 1941 photo of "Sopers Mill" actually shows the WPA rubble dam downstream from the mill site. The photographer was standing in



the old river ford cut on the south bank and shooting to the NE. The old iron pipe that marks the site today once capped the dam and may be just visible in the lower right

corner of the photo. It's the first photo I've seen of that dam when it was intact. It took less than 20 years for high water, ice flows, etc. to wash the dam out. It looked much like today when I first remember the site in the mid 1960's, but the river appears to have scoured a slightly deeper channel than was apparent in the photo. The gathering in the background is at the west end of Soper's Mill today where the road loops. The old river ford was used before the historic rainbow bridge was built in 1876 and was part of the river valley stage road that ran from Bloomington-Ames to Story City.



Donors to Collections

115 donors gave 138 collections to The Society in 2007, compared to 90 donors/125 collections in 2006.

Our thoughtful and generous donors were:

Terry Adams, Ames Public Library, Lois Anderson, Mary Atherly, Art Barton, Olive Batcher, Elaine Vifquain Bath, Anita Beal, Susan Benson, Terrence L. Bird, Betty Blagen, JoAnn Blanchard, Ruth Boast Estate, Shirley Bolce, Kendrick L. Brown, Pat Brown, Ruth Mosher Brown, Delmer Brue, Ben Buck, Bob and Anne Buck, Doris Plagge Burton, Lynn Christian, City of Ames, Sue Crilley, Dabble, Inc., Louise Dengler, Nancy Dowdy, Burt Drexler, Barbara Egemo, Dugan Ersland, Don Faas, Nancy Fawcett, Gene Figura, Richard Fincham, Bob Fitz, Mary Fitz, Kenneth Gammon, Dorothy Gerber, Barbara Gillette, James Graham, Charles Griffith, Jr., Sally Haverly, Rae Haws, Phyllis Heffron, Dayton Heins, Marjory Hertz, Collin Hobert, Rita Houge, ISU Library Special Collections, Bill Jepsen, Margaret Johnson, Katherine King, Mike King, Erwin E. Klaas, Janet Klaas, Daniel Konrady, David Kraemer, Marlys Ladd, William LaGrange, Hugh Laine, Harlan Larson, Loren Larson, Steve Lekwa, Jim Lester, Jerry Litzel, John Litzel, Dorothea Lowman, Ruth Matson, Don McNeil, Ardis McMechan, Jim Menzel, Glen E. Miller, Jane Milleman, Gary W. Moore, Priscilla Mott, Marjorie Nelson, Don Newbrough, Coleen Nutty, Jim Olberding, John Packer, Don Pady, Brian Patterson, Roy Picht, Grant and Betty Quam, Ian Ringgenberg, Ann Rohovit, Norman Rudi, Terry Schlunz, Wesley Shank, Sterling Shreve, Jay Cole Simser, Virginia Slater, Dennis Soderstrum, Richard & Shirley Sorem, Scott Sorem, Meg Speer, Alan Spohnheimer, Elizabeth Starleaf, Maureen Stohlmeyer, Celia Ann Strayer, Rollie Struss, Kathy Svec, Kathy Szyperski, Betty Teague, Daryl L. Thomason, Sara Vouthilak, Thelma Walker, Kay E. Wall, Clyde Walter, Dennis Wendell, Penny Wood, Mary Young, Richard Young, Hank Zalatel, Jane Zaring

Tribune Collection Volunteers

An active group of volunteers comes in on a regular basis to help us to identify, catalogue and store the images from the Tribune Photo Collection that we feature in the newsletter, on our website and weekly in the Tribune feature called "From The Archives".

Here's the group that helped in 2006:



Left to right: Alan Spohnheimer, administrator, Marti Rasmussen, Jim Menzel, Dennis Wendell, curator, Neal Tarman, Jerry Litzel. Not pictured is Alice Mellen



Paul Clark, volunteer, has been coming in one day per week for quite a few months to identify Tribune negatives.



On December 17, the Society's founder, Farwell Brown, marked his 97th birthday with his wife, Ruth and 60 friends at a festive party in his honor.

Miller Contributes Gift

In December, Santa came early when long-time Ames resident, Thelma Miller, contributed the largest Building Fund gift to date! Thelma's late husband, Marvin, was a founding Board member and believer in the need for a museum. Thelma's gift was a grand flourish ending to a truly banner year!

Renew Now for 2008

Membership renewals for 2008 are due on the one-year anniversary of last year's payment. See the label on this newsletter for information about your membership.

Introductory - 1st year	\$10	Sustaining	\$100
Individual	\$25	Benefactor	\$500
Family	\$40	Patron	\$1,000
Friend	\$50		

Additional amount for:

Building Fund \$ _____ Operations Endowment \$ _____

Name _____

Checks payable to Ames Historical Society; send to:
Ames Historical Society, PO Box 821, Ames, IA 50010

Building Fund Update

October 2007 \$42,288 January 2008 \$88,010

Society Operations Endowment

October 2007 \$14,700 January 2008 \$16,765

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